

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /069 W
-----046374 251138Z /14

R 242033Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8676
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 14094

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EG
SUBJ: THE NEW WAFD

REF: CAIRO 13453 (NOTAL)

1. IN COURSE OF THREE AND ONE HALF HOUR LECTURE AT CAIRO
BAR ASSOCIATION, COMMEMORATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY SAAD
ZAGHLOUL'S DEATH AND 12TH ANNIVERSARY MUSTAFA NAHAS'
PASSING, FORMER WAFD PARTY SECRETARY FUAD SARAG AL-DIN
ANNOUNCED THAT HE AND (UNNAMED) COLLEAGUES WILL FORM NEW
POLITICAL PARTY. (BAR ASSOCIATION HISTORICALLY HAS BEEN
WAFD STRONGHOLD). SARAQ AL-DIN REFUSED DISCLOSE PARTY'S
COMPOSITION, OR NAME BY WHICH IT WILL BE KNOWN, BUT ASSURED
AUDIENCE PARTY ALREADY HAS REQUISITE 20 MEMBERS OF
PEOPLES ASSEMBLY. SARAG AL-DIN SAID PRELIMINARY WORK
ALMOST COMPLETED AND ALL LEGAL PROCEDURES SPECIFIED BY
NEW PARTY LAW WILL BE FULFILLED. HE ANTICIPATED FORMAL
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ANNOUNCEMENT WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS.

2. OCCASION WAS SARAG AL-DIN'S FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE
SINCE 1952 REVOLUTION (WHICH PAPERS SAY HE CHARACTERIZED
AS MERE "COUP D'ETAT"). ACCORDING GUMHURIYYA, SARAG
AL-DIN UNFAVORABLY COMPARED POLITICAL FREEDOM BEFORE AND
AFTER REVOLUTION, WHILE CRITICIZING STRONGLY PM SALIM,

CENTER PARTY, AND ASU.

3. IN MARKED CONTRAST, SARAG AL-DIN PRAISED SADAT'S "CORRECTIVE REVOLUTION" AND STRESSED HIS PERSONAL SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT. ECHOING PRESIDENT'S PUBLIC SPEECHES, HE CALLED ON NATION TO BEHAVE AS "SADAT'S CHILDREN" AND "MEMBERS OF ONE FAMILY". HE CONCLUDED THAT PRESIDENT FULLY DESERVES PRESENT POSITION.

4. ADDRESSES WILL RECALL THAT SADAT HAS STATED FIRMLY HIS OPPOSITION TO REEMERGENCE OF WAFD REGARDLESS OF HOW PARTY STYLED. WE DOUBT HE WILL FIND SARAG AL-DIN'S EXCESSIVE PRAISE SUFFICIENT TO OVERCOME DISINCLINATION ALLOW GROUP REENTER POLITICAL ARENA. SPEAKER OF THE PEOPLES ASSEMBLY SAYYID MAR'I REITERATED TO AMBASSADOR ON AUGUST 14 OPPOSITION OF SADAT TO THIS BEING PERMITTED. INTERESTINGLY, HOWEVER, MAR'I SAID THAT HE, PERSONALLY, DID NOT OBJECT TO CONCEPT OF NEW WAFD.

5. ISSUE COULD BE POTENTIALLY EMBARRASSING FOR SADAT. WE WEXPECT SARAG AL-DIN AND HIS COLLEAGUES WILL ADHERE METICULOUSLY TO REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED BY PARTY LAW. THIS WILL MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR COMMITTEE VETTING PARTY APPLICATIONS TO FIND UNCHALLENGEABLE GROUNDS FOR DISQUALIFYING WAFDISTS, WHO CERTAIN TO APPEAL ANY NEGATIVE FINDING. PROCESS WILL BE PUBLIC AND WRITTEN EXPLANATIONS
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FOR DECISIONS MUST BE PROVIDED WITHIN SPECIFIC PERIOD, THUS OFFERING SARAG AL-DIN MAXIMUM OPPORTUNITY ATTRACT PUBLICITY WHILE HOLDING EGYPTIAN REGIME UP TO INTERNATIONAL SCRUTINY.

6. IF WAFD PERMITTED REFORM, SADAT WOULD LIKELY CONFRONT FOR FIRST TIME AN EFFECTIVE POLITICAL OPPOSITION (DESPITE SARAG AL-DIN'S PORTESTATIONS OF LOYALTY). WAFDISTS, IN CONTRAST OTHER OPPOSITION GROUPS, ARE ARTICULATE EXPERIENCED POLITICIANS WITH WIDESPREAD RESIDUAL STENGTH IN COUNTRYSIDE AND CITIES. THIS POTENTIAL FOR EFFECTIVENESS IS ONE OF MAJOR FACTORS MITIGATING AGAINST POSSIBILITY OF THEIR APPLICATION RECEIVING FAVORABLE ACTION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPEECHES, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS, ORGANIZATION & MANAGEMENT, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770307-0301
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770830/aaaaayzc.tel
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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SAS ID: 1507995
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE NEW WAFD
TAGS: PINT, PDEV, EG, (AL-DIN, FUAD SARAG)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bbafe55-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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